



BIG SKY LIBRARIES

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY



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Fall Workshop Coming Up!

MSL's fourth annual Fall Workshop is scheduled for September 20-21 on the campus of Carroll College in Helena. The Fall Workshop will be open to librarians and staff from all types of libraries and there is no registration fee. Details will be online soon at: <http://msl.state.mt.us>

Contact Sue Jackson
1-800-338-5087
sujackson@state.mt.us

New Gale Databases Available FREE!

The following new online information sources are available, free, to libraries participating in MLN's Gale/InfoTrac subscription. These databases have been made available on a trial basis until September 2003. They are available to any library (or at home to library patrons) currently subscribing to Gale/InfoTrac databases through the state-wide agreement with Gale. The databases are only available through the InfoTrac interface; simply select these databases when you logon to Gale.

Take these great new databases for a test drive:

InfoTrac OneFile 1980 - June 2002

A one-stop source for news and periodical articles on a wide range of topics: business, computers, current events, economics, education, environmental issues, health care, hobbies, humanities, law, literature and art, politics, science, social science, sports, technology, and many general interest topics. Millions of full-text articles, many with images. Updated daily.

Business and Company Resource Center

Business and Company Resource Center is a fully integrated resource bringing together company profiles, brand information, rankings, investment reports, company histories, chronologies and periodicals. Search this database to find detailed company and industry news and information.

Health and Wellness Resource Center and Alternative Health Module 1980 - July 2002

Use this Resource Center to find magazines, journals, newspapers, definitions, directories, and information on: fitness, pregnancy, medicine, nutrition, diseases, public health, occupational health and safety, alcohol and drug abuse, prescription drugs, herbal remedies, and alternative or complementary treatments, etc. Included are links to diet, cancer, and health assessment sites as well as government databases. Material contained in this Resource Center is intended for informational purposes only.

What Do I Read Next?

This database has nearly 100,000 recommended titles, over 53,000 plot summaries, and awards information from 557 awards, all to help users uncover new reading adventures, find long-remembered favorites, and discover award-winning titles. Search by genre, subject, author, title, or series.

The new files are available in addition to those you're used to searching:

- Expanded Academic ASAP
- General Reference Center Gold
- Health Reference Center Academic
- Business and Company ASAP
- Kid's Edition
- Junior Edition
- Student Edition

Contact: Bruce Newell, (406) 444-9816, bnewell@state.mt.us



Karen Strege
State Librarian

Karen's Schedule

August 7 —
Commission Meeting—
MSL Conference Room
August 8-9 — PLNA
Conference Missoula
September 5 —
MGIC meeting
September 6 —
Networking Task Force
meeting
September 12-15 —
BCR Meeting in
Denver
September 17 —
Public Participation
Strategies meeting
September 21 —
South Central meeting
in Billings
September 25 — E-
Government meeting
October 4 —
Tamarack Federation
meeting in Missoula
October 6-8 —
COSLA Meeting in
Boston
October 9 —
Commission Meeting
October 10 —
Pathfinder Federation
Meeting

A Word From Our State Librarian

Montana has joined most states in experiencing declines in projected revenues. The Montana State Library has joined most other State Libraries in having to make budget reductions. In June, the Governor made reductions in agency budgets effective July 1. Our budget cuts are:

Materials and Online Materials	\$59,617
Interlibrary Loan Reimbursement Program	\$27,800
Agency Equipment	<u>\$10,298</u>
Total for MSL	\$97,715

These cuts, representing about 5% of our general fund budget, will have significant impacts on our operations and on our services to you. The large reduction in materials, both print and electronic, means that state employees and officials will not have access to critical, current information. The reduction in materials also means that we can only partially fulfill our other role — that of providing back-up information services to Montana's libraries.

The reduction of the interlibrary loan program means that libraries that loan materials to other libraries in Montana may receive less reimbursement from MSL at the end of this fiscal year. We determine payment for each item by dividing the total number of loans into the amount of funds

available, which this year is \$272,200 rather than \$300,000.

The Governor has proposed additional cuts in MSL's budget for the legislature to consider. These cuts include \$140,000 in the coal severance tax revenues that MSL uses to fund federation operations, materials and membership to benefit statewide library services, and the license for the full-text periodical product, InfoTrac. If these proposals are accepted, the Commission will

Federations	\$ 97,000
MSL's Library & Information Services Dept.	<u>\$ 43,000</u>
Total Additional Cuts	\$140,000

be forced to implement the following cuts:

The Governor has also proposed reductions in personnel services that affect each state agency, including MSL. These reductions include a mandatory four-day furlough for all employees, a hiring freeze, and a 20% reduction in the FY 2003 increases in personnel services. The Commission and agency staff members are studying the impacts of these proposals on MSL services but have made no decisions, as of this writing, on how to implement these potential reductions.

The Montana Library Association will take the lead in informing legislators about the impacts of these reductions.



Wants You!

Friends of the Libraries USA (FOLUSA), a national organization devoted to encouraging and growing Friends groups in all types of libraries, has launched a major new membership campaign to encourage libraries to join. Dues are \$50 for libraries with budgets less than \$1 million and \$100 for those with budgets over \$1 million. Membership includes:

- ◆ A bi-monthly copy of FOLUSA's News Update chock full of ideas that work from other Friends groups and libraries across the country.
- ◆ Access to a "Members Only" website that includes a toolkit on establishing and revitalizing Friends groups.
- ◆ Special invitations and notices of FOLUSA events at upcoming conferences.

Contact: FOLUSA, 1420 Walnut, Suite 450, Philadelphia, PA 19102, <http://www.folusa.org>.

Commissioners Corner— Summer Reading Programs

by: Rosemary E. Garvey,
Commission Chair

In my dual role as a commissioner, and a principal of an elementary school for the past 15 years and prior to that a teacher for 16 years, I am truly a proponent of Summer Reading Programs. Public libraries continue to provide these valuable programs and to enhance the literacy and reading of children.

Summer shouldn't mean taking a break from learning, especially reading. Studies show that most students experience a loss of reading skills over the summer months, but children who continue to read actually gain skills.

When preparing for this article, I contacted the public libraries of Butte and Anaconda to discuss their programs. Both directors strongly support the programs as a great opportunity for families and the community. Summer reading programs provide a family activity at no cost to the family, give libraries visibility in the community, and an opportunity to work with other agencies and businesses in the community.

The Summer Reading Programs in both libraries have a variety of options, with interesting themes and important skills being taught. At the Butte library, for example, the topics include geology, puppets, magic, art, and music. Experts and young adults are utilized as presenters. The programs also provide a variety of activities and projects, correlated to the different themes.

Also in Butte, the children participating in the Summer Reading Programs are given free bus rides to the library. Awards and donations are given by businesses, which is indicative of community support for the libraries.

Traditionally, summer reading programs were designed for children in the elementary grades to encourage them to keep reading during vacation. This goal has expanded to involve the community and presents programs, which in some situations are also teaching life long skills to our children.

The June commission meeting, held in Havre, was held on the

opening day of the Summer Reading Program. As I watched the eager youngsters storm into

the library for their first day, I realized that enthusiasm for learning and reading doesn't end on the last day of school. As they headed downstairs, with books in their arms, for their caricature drawing, it became apparent that the concept of "It takes a village to raise a child" was in operation that day in Havre.

The Village (public libraries and community members) continues to provide our Montana students a valuable learning tool — the Summer Reading Program. I acknowledge and appreciate all of the public librarians and communities, who by their continued support for this program, enhance the reading program in the public schools.



*Rosemary Garvey,
MSL Commission Chair*

Next Commission Meeting Venue Changed

Due to the upcoming special legislative session, the MSL Commission will next meet on Wednesday, August 7 in the Montana State Library Conference Room in Helena. This meeting was to have taken place in Missoula on the first day of the Pacific Northwest Library Association's annual conference, which runs from August 7th to the 10th. Commission members and MSL staff members are disappointed that they can not meet during the conference, and

encourage you to take advantage of the worthwhile conference.

The Commission's agenda will include reports on recent state budget cuts and public library standards.

For more information about the meeting, see <http://msl.state.mt.us/admin/Commission/commish.html> and for information on the conference, <http://www.pnla.org/events/conference02>.



Wyoming Bus Trip

In April, a small yet hardy group ventured by bus to northern Wyoming to learn first-



Montana librarians at the beautiful tiled entrance of the Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library in Sheridan, Wyoming.

hand how countywide library systems operate and flourish in our neighboring state. The group included library directors, staff, trustees and Friends from nine Montana public libraries. The trip was funded with Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)

grant funds administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Montana State Library Commission.

During the fact-finding adventure, bus stops were made at three libraries in the Sheridan County Public Library System including the main library in Sheridan and

branches in Ranchester and Story. The group also visited libraries in the Park County Library System including the main library in Cody and a branch in Powell. A final stop was at the beautiful Hinckley Library on the campus of Northwest College in Powell. Besides the tours, the travelers had plenty of opportunity to network and share information with each other as the miles clicked by. Librarians on a bus make for lots of good road conversation.

A second bus trip is planned for September 6-7 to take public library directors and trustees to several library districts in Idaho. Montana now has legislation that allows libraries in our state to organize into a district arrangement. If your library is interested in learning more about library districts, you may want to ride the bus with us to Idaho.

New Commissioners



"It will be a pleasure working with Al and Gail."

Governor Martz recently announced the reappointment of one member of the Montana State Library Commission and the appointment of a new member.

Alvin (Al) Randall from Troy has been reappointed for a three-year term. Al retired from the Libby High School Library a few years ago and is now the director at the Lincoln County Public Library.

Gail Staffanson from Sidney has been appointed for a three-year term. Gail is a former public school teacher and with her husband operates a farm outside of Sidney. Gail's first Commission meeting will be in August.

State Librarian Karen Strege commented, "It will be a pleasure working with Al and Gail."

Trustee Workshops



MSL will host two trustee workshops in October. The first is scheduled for October 11-12 in Great Falls at the Best Western Heritage Inn, and the second will be on October 25-26 in the historic Northern Hotel in downtown Billings.

Both workshops will feature a banquet and speaker on Friday evening and small discussion sessions on Saturday on a variety of topics

relevant to the work of trustees. The workshops are being funded by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant funds administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Montana State Library Commission.

Details and registration materials will be available in September. Contact: Sue Jackson, 1-800-338-5087, sujackson@state.mt.us.

New Networking Task Force Members

The Networking Task Force advises the State Library in matters pertaining to library networks, resource sharing, library automation, online library resources, and training. Twelve Montana librarians and library users comprise the Networking Task Force representing all types of Montana libraries (academic, public, school and special), from all corners of Montana.

Networking Task Force Members Diane Van Gordon and Julie Hainline have resigned. Karen Strege, State Librarian, recently announced that Lyn McKinney from Billings Senior High School will replace Julie as the Class A and AA school representative, and Colette Bartow from the Manhattan School-Community School will replace Diane as the school library representative.



Gates Summer Institutes 2002

The first two Gates Summer Institutes – held in Bozeman and Missoula – were very successful. Nearly 70 Montana public library staff received three days of specialized training designed to expand public access to electronic resources in their libraries. Michael Sauers and Lisa Holmberg from BCR, Mike Carroll from MSL, and Matt Beckstrom from Lewis and Clark Library in Helena were the trainers.

The Institutes brought library staff together from across the state to learn

and share experiences, as well as to enjoy dorm living and experience cafeteria dining.

Funding for the Institutes came from a grant to Montana State Library from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Another Gates Summer Institute is scheduled for August 6-8 in Billings on the MSU-B campus.



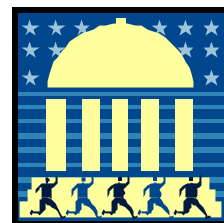
BCR trainer, Michael Sauers, engages Missoula Gates Summer Institute participants in the fine art of teaching public library patrons to use the Internet.

Montana Delegation Visits Congressional Representatives

Karen Strege; Ralph Atchley, MSL Commissioner; Debbie Schlesinger, director of the Lewis and Clark Library; Bernadine Abbott-Hoduski, retired librarian; Frank D'Andraia, dean of the Mansfield Library; and Renee Goss, president of the Montana Library Association, attended the annual American Library Association's Legislative Day in Washington, D. C. on May 1 and 2.

The group attended ALA's briefing

sessions and then visited the offices of Representative Denny Rehberg, and Senators Conrad Burns and Max Baucus to discuss federal library legislation. Items discussed included the reauthorization and increased funding for the Library Service Technology Act (LSTA). The Montana team also urged the delegation to increase funding for school library materials and to move slowly on any changes to digital copyright laws.





Big Sky Libraries

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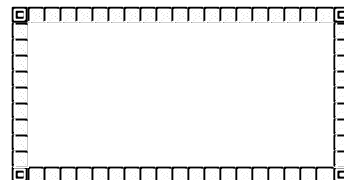
Karen Strege, State Librarian

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Please send articles and other information to be included in this newsletter to:

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
<http://msl.state.mt.us>

Spotlight: Sarah McHugh, Technical Services and System Supervisor & Project Manager, Montana Shared Catalog

Sarah McHugh has been at MSL since the fall of 2000. Prior to that, she worked at the Lewis and Clark Library for many years.

In 1999 she returned to school full-time through a distance Master of Library Science program at Syracuse University. When Sarah graduated she spent a year as Adult Services Librarian at Lewis and Clark then moved over to MSL.

Acquisitions, cataloging and processing of library materials fall into the realm of Technical Services. Sarah says, "I have the advantage of a hardworking team to help keep on top of things. Lately

they've really kept things afloat as I've become increasingly involved in the creation of the new Montana Shared Catalog. I love working on this project because it is a shared effort that involves so many great Montana librarians."

Sarah's husband, Robin, is the Chief Legal Council at the Montana Public Services Commission. They have three daughters: two college-aged and one who is still a grade-schooler. "Our lives are incredibly busy most of the time and it's all great stuff," says Sarah.



Sarah McHugh,
Technical Services and System Supervisor &
Project Manager, Montana Shared Catalog